The book has two parts: Part 1(A) is a reference section dealing with the language structures and vocabulary necessary for handling data like letters and abbreviations, numbers, dates and time, measurement, direction and location; symbols, shapes, lines, dimensions, angles, and terms commonly used to mean precision, approximation, and qualification of comparison, all as they are spoken. Part 1(B) continues with the language used in 1(A) and provides exercises for practice, individually or in groups.

Part 2 contains a number of figures and diagrams to describe and draw. Its sub-sections are: shapes (six increasingly complex shapes), Data (12 pages of various types of data display - tables, graphs, histograms, diagrams, etc.), and Maps and Plans (6 pages of various types of maps and plans). Next to each figure is a tapescript of the description as a native English speaker might describe it.

The material is graded: it begins with simple figures such as squares, rectangles, and tabular data, and progresses to more difficult concepts such as drawing a three-dimensional structure or assembling a chart of data on road accidents and energy consumption.

It is possible to use FIGURES IN LANGUAGE even without the tape (the teacher may read the tapescript to students).

The book with its focus on general numerical or mathematical language providing the basis for more specialised vocabularies in fields such as engineering or statistics, can be successfully used in a technical institution with ESP bias.

Dr. R. K. Singh

ÉTUDE COMPARATIVE DES DONNÉES TERMINOLOGIQUES DES BANQUES DE TERMINOLOGIE DANTERM, B.T.Q.
EURODICAUTOM, NORMATERM O.F.L. SIEMENS
Ecole des Hautes Études Commerciales et des Langues Modernes de Århus, 1982
Sonja Hvalkof

The prospect of exchanging data elements among the world's terminological data banks makes imperative a comparative study of terminological data elements.

The Copenhagen School of Economics and Business Administration proposed this study which was recommended by the participants of the First International Conference on Terminological Data Banks in Vienna in 1979. Infoterm was to arrange a comparative study. As a research fellow at the Århus School of Business Administration, Economics and Modern Languages (Denmark), the author has been working on this project.

Object of the study

The object of the study is to ascertain whether DANTERM is able to exchange data elements with other terminological data banks.
With this end in view the author chose terminological data banks with different purposes. A study was also made in order to determine whether the assembled data were appropriate to the purpose of the bank in question.

The study covers:

DANTERM a projected terminological data bank at the Copenhagen School of Economics and Business Administration, Denmark.

B.T.Q. Banque de terminologie du Québec, Canada.

EURODICAUTOM at the Commission of the European Communities, Luxembourg.

NORMATERM established by APNOR, Paris, France.

Bundessprachenamt in Hürth/Cologne, West Germany.

SIEMENS in Munich, West Germany.

First a description of the different systems, their purposes, combination of languages and number of terminological data is given.

With a view to a detailed comparison of the 6 terminological data banks, a comparative table of the terminological data in use at each bank has been made. Explanations for the reference numbers in the table are given on another sheet.

Following a preliminary evaluation of the comparative table some partial conclusions on the most important differences between the terminological data banks are drawn (the variable number of information categories, the variable number of terminological data, different combinations of languages, etc.).

A very practical investigation has been made including the possibilities of an exchange of data elements in a given system corresponding to one in another system. The data which can be exchanged between DANTERM and each of the other banks are shown. It is mentioned whether it is easy or difficult to exchange data between the terminological banks.

The study shows that DANTERM and the other terminological data banks have got some data in common and some which are unique to their own bank.

A study of each bank has been made in order to determine whether the assembled data are appropriate to the purpose of each bank. A list including terminological and general data common to all the systems has been made.

The list includes the following data:

Classification
Language
Term
Abbreviated form
Special field of application
Source of the term
Information on irreversibility
Definition
Source of the definition
Other texts
Sources of other texts
Comments on the term
Because the terminological data banks serve different purposes one may assume that this list of data will not be sufficient to stress the purpose of each bank, but that complementary terminological and general data will be necessary to adapt them to their own purposes.

In order to ascertain the characteristics of each bank, the list with the common data and the specific terminological and general data of each bank are studied.

The author presumes that the classification systems reflect the purposes of the banks.

An analysis of the major differences between DANTERM and the other terminological data banks has been made.

The following conclusions have been reached:
- the terminological data banks answer their purposes
- the capacity for exchange of data between the terminological data banks varies very much.
- it is necessary to harmonize the data in order to improve exchangeability

The report closes with a survey of the future possibilities of developing the terminological data banks. In Vienna, Austria, the meeting of Experts on Terminological Data Elements 24th-26th September 1980 recommended a list of mandatory and optional data elements.